GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2568
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
National Mission on Himalayan Studies
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Mission on Himalayan Studies along with the annual targets set under this Mission over the next five years;
(b) the details of the problems identified in various thematic areas along with the solutions proposed for them;
(c) the details of the funds released and utilized in this regard during the last financial year; and
(d) the details of the pilots/studies undertaken in the focus areas of Himalayan glacier, forest, water and land?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Recognizing the importance of the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, this Ministry has launched the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) in December, 2015 with the objective of building scientific and traditional knowledge, a network of practitioners (individual and institutions) and to demonstrate workable/implementation/replicable solutions to the problems in 25 identified thematic areas during the next 5 years through studies, pilots and interventions. Outcome of the studies and action under the NMHS will facilitate informed policy decision and knowledge products for data deficit Himalayan Region.

The annual targets for 2016-17 for NMHS inter-alia include strengthening the Project Management Unit and Database Management Centre at GBPIHED; review and monitoring of ongoing studies, pilots and interventions; award of fellowship and academic exchange programs for upscaling R&D activities; upgrade research infrastructure of key academic and research institutions; develop education, awareness and outreach programs.

(b) The problems identified in 25 thematic areas mainly relate to conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing arising out of natural resources utilization; introduction of technology (and after effects) without assessing local needs and priorities; isolated developmental efforts and absence of integrated management of natural resources; absence of synergies and linkages to maximize the benefits of several ongoing schemes and programs of the Government, often in silos; limited extension education programs appropriate to local needs; limited long term studies for ecological and economical changes in the region and low investment per unit of area;.

(c) During the year 2015-16, a sum of Rs.63.45 crore was released for implementation of NMHS and an expenditure of Rs.28.45 crore was incurred.

(d) A total of 27 studies have been approved in the NMHS for implementation during the next 3 years in focus area of Himalayan forest, water and land. The expected outcome includes generation of baseline data, knowledge products in the form of policy guidelines and field based models to meet the objective of the Mission.

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